Permits for Inter-State Bus Routes

2581. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to issue permits for inter-state bus routes and permission for plying private buses on these routes; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any provision for reservation for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes has also been made while issuing such permits; if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of such permits issued to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes out of the total permits issued by the State Transport Authority during the last few days; and

(d) what was the number of applications received for such permits from the reserved category and whether Government propose to invite applications again from the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes in case allotment has not been made as per the reservation quota ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir. It is for the State Governments/Union Territories to issue permits for inter-State bus routes.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Cut on Funds for Maintenance of National Highways in West Bengal

2582. SHRI ASHIS SEN :
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN :
SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :
SHRI MD. SALIM :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

a) whether it is a fact that Government entrust the State Governments the work of maintenance of National Highways and release funds for the purpose;

(b) if so, whether funds are released regularly and adequately;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have cut down the funds for maintenance of National Highways passing through West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Funds for maintenance of National Highways are released to the State Governments periodically keeping in view the requirements and total funds available for the purpose in the budget. Due to constraint of resources, it has not been possible to release full amount of funds for maintenance as per norms to various States including West Bengal.

Private Sector Participation in Development of National Highways

2583. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since decided to encourage the private sector participation in the field of construction, maintenance and development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the special incentives envisaged for the purpose and the response from the private sector;

(c) whether Government have also invited the foreign private companies to invest in the construction of roads;

(d) if so, the response from the foreign-investors;

(e) the likely investment, from both the foreign and domestic sources; and

(f) the National Highways/Expressways which are proposed to be handed over to the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a)

to (f) The Government has been contemplating to involve private sector in construction, maintenance and operation of fee-based facilities on National Highways. In order to elicit views in this regard, a seminar was organised in January, 1992 with representatives from private sector, financial instituions, State Governments etc. A study on various aspects of privatisation, under assistance from Asian Development Bank, has also been got completed recently. Having regard to these developments, the incentives proposed to be given to the private sector in respect of various obligations are yet to be finalised by the Government. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the response by foreign and domestic entrepreneurs about investment in National Highways/Expressways.

Financial Position of Shipping Corporation of India

2584. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned or loss suffered by the Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years till date;

(b) whether there is any proposal to add more ships to the existing fleet of the Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the foreign assistance proposed to be obtained in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER) : (a) The net profit after tax earned by Shipping Corporation of India for the last three years is as under :—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	101.1
1990-91	54.5
1991-92 (Provisional)	108.8

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In adition to 9 vessels on order, the Shipping Corporation of India have proposed to place orders for 79 vessels of 28.33 lakhs DWT during the 8th Plan period. Out of these , the Shipping Corporation of India acquired two second-hand vessels of 66,000 DWT in April, 1992 from an Indian company.

(d) For the purpose of financing the acquisition from overseas, foreign exchange loans would be raised through (a) Deferred credit offered by the Shipyards and/or (b) External Commercial Borrowings.

Highway Patrolling in and Around Delhi

2585. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Highway patrolling scheme in and around Delhi had been abandoned;

(b) what were the objectives of the scheme and the reasons for abondoning the same;

(c) whether in view of the importance of the scheme to ensure smoothness and security of traffic and providing aid to the victims of accidents the scheme is being or has been revived and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) A pilot highway patrolling scheme was started during 1983-84 and had as one of its main objective the improvement of road safety and enforcement of traffic discipline on the National Highways. Under the scheme, traffic aid posts were also set set up at a distance of 50 to 60 kilometers. This scheme was discontinued in June, 1988.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Highway accident relief scheme, as a pilot project, would be launched, on certain stretches of national highways. Under this scheme, ambulance services for removing of victims of road accidents to the nearest medical centre as well as break-down services for accidented vehicles is envisaged.